

## Message Text

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52

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 COA-02 IO-12 OMB-01 /126 W

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R 101213 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2149

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR EFIS MO SP

SUBJ: MOROCCAN- SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: RABAT 1959 ( NA)

1. ON MAY 9 I CONVEYED TO SPANISH AMBASSADOR IMPRESSION I HAD RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA THAT LATTER PLEASSED WITH HIS RECENT TRIP TO SPAIN AND SPECIFICALLY BY HIGH- LEVEL RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED THERE. MARTIN- GAMERO SAID HE GLAD TO HAVE THIS INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF HIS OWN APPRECIATION OF EFFECT MADE UPON BNEHIMA BY TREATMENT AT HANDS OF GOS.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE THOUGHT BENHIMA TRIP HAD REALLY BEEN VERY USEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL. HE BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN REMOVING CERTAIN STEREOTYPED MISCONCEPTIONS HELD BY EACH SIDE OF THE OTHER ; BENHIMA' S TALK WITH CARRERO BLANCO, IN WHICH MARTIN- GAMERO HAD PARTICIPATED, WAS REMARKABLY FRANK AND REVEALED BROADNESS AND FLEXIBILITY OF APPROACH ON CARRERO' S PART TO PROBLEM  
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OF SPAIN' S RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD NOT HIMSELF SUSPECTED.

3. WITH REGARD TO FISHING PROBLEM, MARTIN- GAMERO SAID SPANIARDS HAD TOLD BENHIMA IT WOULD TAKE THEM ABOUT TWO YEARS TO CONVERT SPANISH FISHING FLEET TO DISTANT- WATER CAPACITY. DURING THIS PERIOD SPANIARDS HOPED THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO PERMIT SOME CONTINUED SPANISH FISHING IN EXTENDED MOROCCAN FISHING ZONE; THEY HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM BENHIMA THAT THIS WOULD BE FEASIBLE, ASSUMING SPANIARDS MADE SINCERE EFFORT TO SET UP SOME KIND OF JOINT MOROCCAN- SPANISH FISHING VENTURE.

4. SPANIARDS RECEIVED CLEAR IMPRESSION FROM BENHIMA THAT MOROCCO DEFINITELY PREFERRED CONTINUATION OF STATUS QUO TO GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO SAHARA. SPANIARDS MADE CLEAR THAT THERE COULD BE NO HOPE OF IMMEDIATE SOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS SAHARA, CEUTA AND MELILLA, THEY BELIEVED BENHIMA ACQUIESCED IN NEED FOR STRENGTHENING MOROCCAN- SPANISH RELATIONS OUTSIDE OF THESE PROBLEMS JUST AS RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND UK BEING STRENGTHENED DESPITE EXISTENCE OF GIBRALTAR ISSUE.

5. MARTIN- GAMERO SAID THAT BENHIMA' S APPROACH TO SAHARA REFLECTED SERIOUS MOROCCAN CONCERN ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION MAURITANIA AND GROWING INFLUENCE OF LIBYA THERE.

6. AMBASSADOR HOPEFUL PERIOD OF EXTREME TENSION IN MOROCCAN- SPANISH RELATIONS NOW OVER .  
ROCKWELL

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR PBOR EFIS MO SP  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973RABAT02149  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730541/aaaaitrn.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 RABAT 1959 ( NA)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980127  
**Subject:** MOROCCAN- SPANISH RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, n/a  
**To:** AF  
ALGIERS  
MADRID  
NOUAKCHOTT  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
TRIPOLI  
TUNIS

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005